

2. The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 1, further including:
a plurality of ink reservoirs; and
a plurality of printheads;
wherein one of each plurality of ink reservoirs is in fluid communication with a
respective one of each plurality of printheads in said engaged position.

3. The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 1, further including a channel
extending between said ink reservoir and said printhead in said engaged position.

4. The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 3, wherein said channel is
substantially air tight when said carriage is in said engaged position such that a
vacuum formed in the channel will cause ink to flow, and said channel is not
substantially air tight when the carriage is moved out of its engaged position, thereby
preventing ink from flowing through the channel.

5. (Amended) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 1, wherein said first
mounting portion is a printhead mounting-portion and said second mounting portion is
an ink reservoir mounting-portion; and wherein said printhead mounting-portion is
pivotally secured to said ink reservoir mounting-portion at said pivot point.

6. The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 5, wherein said printhead is
detachably secured to said printhead mounting-portion.

7. The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 6, wherein said ink reservoir is
detachably secured to said ink reservoir mounting-portion.

8. The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 5, further including:
a resistive detent on one of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink
reservoir mounting-portion; and,
a tab extending from the other of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink
reservoir mounting-portion for operably engaging said resistive detent when said
carriage is in said open position, thereby holding the carriage in said open position to

further facilitate removal of the printhead.

9. The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 5, further including a shaft extending from one of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink reservoir mounting-portion, said shaft having a mating end portion; and

a mating hole for receiving said shaft in the other of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink reservoir mounting-portion, said mating hole including a notch for operably receiving said mating end portion of said shaft only when said printhead mounting-portion and said ink reservoir mounting-portion are in a defined position with respect to each other.

10. The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 5, further including a latching mechanism for detachably securing said printhead mounting portion to said ink reservoir mounting-portion.

11. The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 10, wherein said latching mechanism includes:

a handle pivotally secured to one of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink reservoir mounting-portion at a pivot;

a joining arm extending from said handle; and

a hook for receiving said joining arm extending from the other of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink reservoir mounting-portion such that said hook operably engages said joining arm when said handle is pivoted about said pivot.

12. (Twice Amended) An inkjet printer comprising:

a chassis;

a motor;

a carriage operably secured to the chassis and driven by the motor for reciprocal movement relative to the chassis;

a printhead operably secured to said carriage;

an ink reservoir operably secured to said carriage in a secured position such that said ink reservoir may pivot about said printhead at a pivot point while remaining in said secured position, said carriage having an engaged position in which the ink reservoir is

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~~in fluid communication with said printhead when said ink reservoir is in said secured position, and an open position, in which the ink reservoir is pivoted about said pivot point away from said printhead, such that said printhead may be accessed without removing said ink reservoir from said secured position.~~

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13. The inkjet printer of claim 12, further including a channel extending between said ink reservoir to said printhead when said carriage is in said engaged position.

14. The inkjet printer of claim 13, wherein said channel is substantially air tight when said carriage is in said engaged position such that a vacuum formed in the channel will cause ink to flow, and said channel is not substantially air tight when the carriage is moved out of its engaged position, thereby preventing ink from flowing through the channel.

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15. The inkjet printer of claim 12, wherein said printhead is operably secured to said carriage at a printhead mounting-portion, and said ink reservoir is operably secured to said carriage at an ink reservoir mounting-portion; and wherein said printhead mounting-portion is pivotally secured to said ink reservoir mounting-portion at said pivot point.

16. The inkjet printer of claim 12, further including:
a second ink reservoir operably secured to said carriage; and,
a second printhead operably secured to said carriage,
wherein said first ink reservoir includes black ink, and said second ink reservoir includes a plurality of chambers for receiving a plurality of different colored inks.

17. (Twice Amended) A method for replacing a first printhead operably secured to a carriage of an inkjet printer with a second printhead, the inkjet printer having an on-axis ink reservoir pivotally secured to the carriage defining a secured position of the ink reservoir with respect to the ink reservoir mounting-portion and defining an engaged position in which the ink reservoir is in fluid communication with the printhead, said method including the steps of:

locating the carriage containing the first printhead;

pivoting the ink reservoir out of its engaged position such that the first printhead is exposed and easily accessible in the carriage while maintaining said ink reservoir in said secured position, and thereby automatically disconnecting the fluid communication between the ink reservoir and the first printhead and providing access to said first printhead without removing said ink reservoir from said secured position;

removing the first printhead from the carriage while maintaining the ink reservoir in said secured position;

installing the second printhead in the carriage such that the second printhead is operably secured to the carriage while maintaining the ink reservoir in said secured position; and,

returning the ink reservoir to its engaged position thereby automatically placing the ink reservoir and second printhead in fluid communication with each other without removing said ink reservoir from said carriage.

18. The method for replacing a first printhead operably secured to a carriage of an inkjet printer with a second printhead of claim 17, wherein said locating the first printhead step includes positioning the carriage in the printer such that it is easily accessible through an access door on the printer.

19. The method for replacing a first printhead operably secured to a carriage of an inkjet printer with a second printhead of claim 17, wherein said first and second printheads are detachably secured to said carriage.

20. The method for replacing a first printhead operably secured to a carriage of an inkjet printer with a second printhead of claim 17, further including the steps of:

unlatching a latching mechanism extending between structures containing the ink reservoir and first printhead to initiate said step of pivoting the ink reservoir out of its engaged position; and

latching the latching mechanism following said step of returning the ink reservoir to its engaged position.

21. (Previously Added) A carriage for an inkjet printer comprising:
a first mounting portion;
a printhead operably secured to said first mounting portion;
a second mounting portion operably secured to said first mounting portion such that said second mounting portion moves toward and away from said first mounting portion along a defined path;
an ink reservoir operably secured to said second mounting portion in a secured position,
said second mounting portion having an engaged position in which the ink reservoir is in fluid communication with said printhead when said ink reservoir is in said secured position, and an open position in which the second mounting portion is moved away from the first mounting portion along the defined path and said ink reservoir remains in said secured position thereby providing easy access to the printhead without detaching said ink reservoir from said secured position on said second mounting portion.

22. (Previously Added) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 21, wherein said first mounting portion is pivotally secured to said second mounting portion at a pivot point.

23. (Previously Added) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 21, wherein said first mounting portion is a printhead mounting-portion and said second mounting portion is an ink reservoir mounting-portion.

24. (Previously Added) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 23, wherein said printhead is detachably secured to said printhead mounting-portion.

25. (Previously Added) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 23, wherein said ink reservoir is detachably secured to said ink reservoir mounting-portion.